

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on February 6, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)  
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)  
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)  
Rep. Edith Clark (R)  
Rep. Bob Davies (R)  
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)  
Rep. Dick Haines (R)  
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)  
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)  
Rep. Art Peterson (R)  
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)  
Rep. John Witt (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary  
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 449  
Executive Action: HB 449, HB 92, HB 146, HB 186

#### **HEARING ON HB 449**

**Sponsor:** REP. CINDY YOUNKIN, HD 28, BOZEMAN

**Proponents:** Frank Matule, Director of Admissions, UM  
Jessica Kobos, Student Montana Board of Regents  
Richard Roehm, Montana Board of Regents  
Jennifer Dunn, New Student Services Representative  
Steve White, Montana Coalition of Home Educators  
Cathy Conover, Montana State University  
Kira Kuntz, Student Body President, MSU  
Kay Unger, MEA-MFT  
Jean Braun, Student, Capital & Helena High  
Arlene Hannawalt, Director for the Montana  
Guaranteed Student Loan Program  
Dustin Stewart, Montana State University  
Dustin Dunkle, Montana State University  
Krystal Lee, Montana State University  
Sarah Cobler, University of Montana

**Opponents:** None

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

REP. CINDY YOUNKIN, HD 28, BOZEMAN, said the bill would expand the Montana High School Honors Scholarship Program. She felt it would assist Montana's best and brightest students. She made reference to the term "brain drain" being caused by the top students leaving the state.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

Frank Matule, Director of Admissions, University of Montana, offered a background to his position and responsibilities. He explained how universities outside of Montana recruit students. He mentioned how certain issues could be done to keep students in Montana.

Jessica Kobos, Student Montana Board of Regents, explained how the top students in her high school left the state to attend colleges in other states. She mentioned experiences she has had applying for scholarships.

Richard Roehm, Montana Board of Regents, addressed a story relating to a student receiving a scholarship and moving out of state to attend school. He felt this program would support students in the state and the talented youth.

**Jennifer Dunn, New Student Services Representative**, explained her duties as a recruiter for Montana State University. She mentioned out of state students were easy to recruit.

**Steve White, Montana Coalition of Home Educators**, handed in a testimony **EXHIBIT**(aph30b01).

**Cathy Conover, Montana State University**, supported the bill and urged the committee to consider this legislation.

**Kira Kuntz, Student Body President, MSU**, mentioned a scholarship she had received and how easy it is to go out of state to attend colleges.

**Kay Unger, MEA-MFT**, supported the bill and gave reasons for her support. She believed the strongest asset of the higher education system was the quality of the students.

**Jean Braun, Student, Capital & Helena High**, read a written testimony **EXHIBIT**(aph30b02).

*{Tape 1; Side B}*

**Arlene Hannawalt, Director for the Montana**, handed in a testimony **EXHIBIT**(aph30b03). She provided the committee an analysis of scholarship recipients **EXHIBIT**(aph30b04). She offered a list of students being accepted through these scholarships **EXHIBIT**(aph30b05).

**Dustin Stewart, Montana State University**, passed out letters from students **EXHIBIT**(aph30b06), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b07), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b08), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b09), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b10), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b11), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b12), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b13), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b14), **EXHIBIT**(aph30b15). He handed out a sheet referring to scholarships **EXHIBIT**(aph30b16). He explained the sheet and urged support of the bill.

**Dustin Dunkle, Montana State University**, told the committee what it meant to be offered a scholarship to attend college in state.

**Krystal Lee, Montana State University**, urged support of the bill.

**Sarah Cobler, University of Montana**, felt the bill would offer benefits to students and was a good program.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**REP. DAVE LEWIS** asked about the long term value involved. **Frank Matule** explained long term value and the effects it would have on students and the state.

**REP. CHRISTINE KAUFMANN** asked if there was an extension of an existing program. **REP. YOUNKIN** said the current program was a fee waiver through the university system budget. She said the current program would be replaced with this program.

**REP. KAUFMANN** referred her question to a proponent. **Arlene Hannawalt** said as the bill was written the freshman fee waiver would continue to be given by the university system.

**REP. ROSIE BUZZAS** asked how a student could receive scholarships for the remaining four years. **Arlene Hannawalt** said the students would be required to maintain an academic level.

**REP. BUZZAS** asked why utilizing the SAT and ACT scores would not be available for scholarships. **Arlene Hannawalt** said the program offers a fair way to award the scholarships.

***{Tape 2; Side A}***

**REP. BUZZAS** asked how the academic performance was currently measured. **Arlene Hannawalt** said the students were not required to take a GED because of the ACT and SAT scores.

**REP. JOHN WITT** asked about the comparison of the student loan debt. **Jessica Kobos** didn't have the information with her, but was willing to get it to the committee.

**REP. WITT** asked if students went out of state due to the debt. **Jessica Kobos** said students make the choices for their college careers.

**REP. MATT MCCANN** asked why the change from a fee waiver to a cash stipend. **Arlene Hannawalt** mentioned the funding due to federal standards. She said the fee waiver would be kept the freshman year since it is already in use.

**REP. MCCANN** asked if the assistance plan was for all students in the university system. **Arlene Hannawalt** referenced a fact book mentioning the debt load numbers from other states.

**REP. JOEY JAYNE** asked how many students receiving the scholarships actually graduated. **Arlene Hannawalt** didn't have that information with her to answer the question.

**REP. JAYNE** asked where the numbers came from. **Arlene Hannawalt** said it was received by the Department of Labor, drivers license bureau and from the database.

**REP. STANLEY FISHER** asked the costs of tuition and books for a student to stay in state. **Frank Matule** said the tuition including room and board was approximately \$5,000 a semester.

**REP. FISHER** asked what drew students to Montana. **Frank Matule** said students attending Montana colleges were from wealthier backgrounds.

**REP. JEFF PATTISON** asked if students stay in state after they obtain a degree. **Dustin Dunkle** said higher salaries could be achieved out of state due to the economy in Montana.

**REP. PATTISON** asked if any plans were being made to obtain students after graduation. **Frank Matule** said if students do not have a huge debt load they would stay in Montana.

**REP. DAVE KASTEN** asked what the interest rate on the student loans was. **Arlene Hannawalt** said the interest rate was variable tied to the 91 day T-Bill and averaged around 8%.

**REP. KASTEN** asked if the interest started accruing the first year the loan is offered. **Arlene Hannawalt** answered yes.

**CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK** asked if there were any reasons to make this a cash program. **Arlene Hannawalt** explained the change to a fee waiver system.

**CHAIRMAN VICK** asked if an increased state supported student assistance program was considered would it be accepted. **Jessica Kobos** thought both programs would be beneficial to students.

**CHAIRMAN VICK** referred his question to another proponent. **Kira Kuntz** said students would benefit more from the current bill.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**REP. CINDY YOUNKIN, HD 28, BOZEMAN**, summarized the need for this legislation and how it would be beneficial to students and the state.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 449**

**Motion:** REP. TROPILA moved HB 49 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

REP. LEWIS opposed the bill and referred the committee about the legislative audit.

REP. MCCANN felt the program wasn't being increased.

REP. PATTISON opposed the bill due to the money being loaned out.

REP. BUZZAS wondered about a follow up audit before increasing any future funding.

**Substitute Motion/Vote:** REP. MCCANN made a substitute motion HB 449 BE TABLED. Substitute motion carried 17-1 with REP. TROPILA voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 92**

**Motion:** REP. TROPILA moved HB 92 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

REP. MCCANN didn't think this legislative session could fund this bill.

**Substitute Motion/Vote:** REP. MCCANN made a substitute motion HB 92 BE TABLED. Substitute motion carried 15-3 with REP. JAYNE, REP. KAUFMANN and REP. TROPILA voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 146**

**Motion:** REP. LEWIS moved HB 146 BE AMENDED. Amendments were handed out **EXHIBIT**(aph30b17).

**Discussion:**

Taryn Purdy, Legislative Staff, explained the amendments and gave clarifications of the language.

REP. KASTEN wondered if no funding was available there wouldn't be a need for the bill. REP. TIM CALLAHAN explained the pilot

program that would be established. He said the bill was to be a safety net allowing judicial districts additional funding.

**REP. KAUFMANN** said the counties needed the additional funding and she didn't support the amendments.

**REP. BUZZAS** thought the money was currently available. **REP. CALLAHAN** said there was placement money and he explained why it had been underfunded.

*{Tape 2; Side B}*

**CHAIRMAN VICK** commented on the contingency fund. He supported the amendment with the bill.

**Vote:** Motion carried 13-5 with **REP. BUZZAS**, **REP. CALLAHAN**, **REP. JAYNE**, **REP. KAUFMANN** and **REP. LINDEEN** voting no.

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. MCCANN** moved HB 146 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried 14-4 with **REP. BUZZAS**, **REP. CALLAHAN**, **REP. KAUFMANN** and **REP. LINDEEN** voting no.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 186**

**Motion:** **REP. KASTEN** moved HB 186 DO PASS.

#### **Discussion:**

**REP. BUZZAS** didn't like the tight budget and explained her reasons to oppose this legislation.

**Substitute Motion/Vote:** **REP. BUZZAS** made a substitute motion HB 186 BE TABLED. Substitute motion failed 5-13 with **REP. BUZZAS**, **REP. FISHER**, **REP. KAUFMANN**, **REP. PETERSON** and **CHAIRMAN VICK** voting aye.

*{Tape 3; Side A}*

#### **Discussion Continued:**

**REP. MONICA LINDEEN** said they should research increasing the funding to \$100,000.

**CHAIRMAN VICK** explained the addition to an amendment.

**Motion:** **REP. LINDEEN** moved HB 186 BE AMENDED and adopt an increase of funding to \$100,000.

**Discussion:**

**REP. BUZZAS** didn't agree with the additional funding.

**REP. DICK HAINES** didn't think there was any other solution for the bill. He felt this would be an economic investment for the state.

**REP. MCCANN** supported the bill at \$50,000. **REP. JAYNE** supported the bill with the same amount. **REP. PATTISON** supported the bill at \$50,000 also, but not the additional amendment.

**Vote:** Motion to amend failed 14-4 with **REP. CALLAHAN**, **REP. HAINES**, **REP. LINDEEN** and **REP. WITT** voting aye.

**Vote:** Motion to DO PASS carried 12-6 with **REP. LEWIS**, **REP. BUZZAS**, **REP. FISHER**, **REP. KAUFMANN**, **REP. PETERSON** and **CHAIRMAN VICK** voting no.



**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

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REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

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CECILE M. TROPILA, Transcriptionist

SV/PB

**EXHIBIT** (aph30bad)